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ABSTRACT

Family reunification is one expression of the renewed emphasis in child welfare and related fields on preserving families. Specific information that child welfare agencies can use to establish and implement programs that promote the reuniting of out-of-home children with their biological families are detailed in this book. It is intended as a reference tool and as a basic text for in-service training programs for social workers, supervisors, and administrators in child welfare agencies. Each of its 11 chapters addresses a particular aspect of family reunification and suggests principles and strategies to guide the work of providers. Case examples are provided throughout. The text opens with a historical analysis of family reunification and highlights the societal events that led to the current interest in reunification. Part one describes the structures that need to be in place to support family reunification, such as the relationship between the court system and the child welfare agency. Part two focuses on the range of practice methods and approaches that constitute family reunification work. Issues covered in this section include strategies for effective parent involvement. In part three, the use of evaluation and research to create a knowledge base on family reunification is explored. (RJM)

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